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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio dialog by W. R. Beattie of the Bureau of Plant Industry and Maurice L. DuMars of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, June 28, 1937.

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Department of Ag:

DuMars:

Next on our Department of Agriculture period of the Farm and Home Hour today, we have W. R. Beattie with his garden calendar notes. Mr. Beattie, I suppose these long, hot summer days are bringing you plenty of letters from farmers and gardeners who are having their troubles with diseases or insects in their gardens and orchards.

Beattie:

Yes a great many and they all want an answer right on the spot.

DuMars:

Why the great rush for a reply?

Beattie:

Well you see, a lot of these folks plant their gardens without very much regard for the diseases and the hordes of insects that are sure to appear about the time real summer weather sets in. Then when the troubles start they send a rush letter to their State College or Experiment Station or to the Department for a bulletin that will tell them what to do to save their crops.

DuMars:

And what bulletin do you usually send them?

Beattie:

That depends upon what crops they are growing and the nature of their difficulty. If it is a case of general disease and insect troubles in the garden we send them a copy of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1371 on the Diseases and Insects of Garden Vegetables.

DuMars:

As I recall Farmers' Bulletin No. 1371 tells briefly how to control a large number of diseases and insects that attack garden crops.

Beattie:

Yes, Farmers' Bulletin 1371 contains the ABC's of garden-pest control in very brief form. We have other bulletins that contain detailed information.

DuMars:

For example----

Beattie:

Our bulletin on the growing of tomatoes as a truck crop is a good example. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1338 and it contains information on the tomato wilt disease and the leaf diseases that cause the leaves to curl up, turn brown, and

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finally die. It also tells about those big vicious looking hornworms and the tomato fruit worms and how to put an end to their depredations.

DuMars:

Perhaps you might mention your bulletins on cucumbers, muskmelons and watermelons. Those crops are subject to disease and insect troubles at this season of the year.

Beattie:

That's a good suggestion and a great many of the letters we receive are asking for information on how to control this or that disease or insect of vine crops, especially the mildew and other diseases that destroy the leaves. Fortunately our eastern muskmelon growers have not as yet been greatly troubled with the mildew on their melons, but out in the Imperial Valley of California our workers and the State people had to get busy and develop a muskmelon or cantaloupe that is immune to mildew. Something had to be done or those growers would have been put out of business.

DuMars:

And the result was the introduction of the Number 45 I believe.

Beattie:

Yes that was the result and the Hales Best No. 45 is now being planted very largely in California and wherever any trouble is being experienced with mildew. Our plant breeders are still on the job and other crosses and selections are being tried out.

DuMars:

In other words the scientists of the Department and the States are always trying to better their own record, especially in this fight against plant diseases and insects.

Beattie:

That is correct and new methods of controlling plant diseases and insects are being found. You suggested that I mention our bulletins on cucumbers, muskmelons and watermelons. I will give the numbers so that any of our listeners who have their pencils and paper can jot them down. They are all Farmers' Bulletins. Cucumber Growing is No. 1563; Muskmelons is No. 1468; Watermelons is No. 1394.

DuMars:

And in case you did not get the numbers just address a postcard or a letter to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., write your name and address very plainly and list the garden crops on which you desire information. In case you want a general bulletin on the diseases and insects of garden vegetables ask for No. 1371 or order the bulletin by its title. I'd suggest that you get a copy now and hang it alongside your almanac or your telephone where you can refer to it whenever you run into any trouble with disease or insect pests in your garden.

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